

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/766,636

Examiner

Eric Woods

Applicant(s)

YOSHIDA, YOSHIJI

Art Unit

2628

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 12/19/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 13-25.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/19/2006 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments and claim amendments, see Remarks pages 1-12, filed 12/19/2006, with respect to the rejections of claims 13--24 have been fully considered and are persuasive in view of applicant's amendments.

The objection of claim 17 has been withdrawn in view of applicant's amendments.

The objections against claims 16 and 23 stand withdrawn in view of applicant's amendments.

The objections against claims 13, 14, 18, and 19 stand withdrawn in view of applicant's amendments.

The rejection of claims 13-24 under 35 USC 103(a) stand withdrawn in view of applicant's amendments.

The rejection of claims 13-24 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, stands withdrawn in view of applicant's pointing out the support said limitations had in the specification.

Therefore, applicant's arguments with respect to the amended claims are moot.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 12/19/2006 was filed after the mailing date of the Final Rejection on 7/17/2006 but with the filing of the RCE on 12/19/2006. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the examiner is considering the information disclosure statement.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 13-25 are allowed.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The closest available / relevant prior art (besides the Itoh reference) is found to be:

US 5,361,387	Millar et al
US 5,793,351	Leach, Jerald Gwyn
US 5,818,466	Ryu, Kyoung-Keol
US 5,892,521	Blossom et al

None of the above combination teach both a sprite buffer and a frame buffer that are synchronized in read and write mode as recited above, although Blossom et al, Itoh et al, teach a system with a pattern ROM, sprite buffer, and frame buffer, but do not

teach the recited synchronization of read and write timings, nor do they teach that such memories are configured to be incapable of simultaneous read-write operations (e.g. single-port). Indeed, the system of Itoh is dual-port. Ryu and Leach teach systems with sprite buffers and frame buffers but do not have the recited pattern ROM or have the synchronized timing. Millar et al discloses a system (Figure 3, 2:64-3:65, 39:34-60 (particular emphasis on 39:34-47)) that has a first memory and second memory that have priority access to a frame buffer but do not expressly recite whether the first CPU that accesses first memory (analogous to sprite buffer) has a priority on read/write accesses to that memory, although aforementioned CPU (comparable to decoder) does have priority access to that first memory (element 23 / element 38 in Figure 3).

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Therefore, in summary, the prior art does not teach a system in combination that has a memory that contains sprites stored in compressed, block form format, and single port sprite buffers and frame buffers that have synchronized opposite read/write modes via priority setting. Therefore, the recited invention is both novel and non-obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Woods whose telephone number is 571-272-7775. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ulka Chauhan can be reached on 571-272-7782. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Eric Woods

March 29, 2007



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